

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	59447	Agenda Number	32.
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Meeting Date:	6/16/2016	Department:	Development Services
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Subject

Set a public hearing to consider an ordinance repealing and replacing the Energy Code, Article 12 of City Code Chapter 25-12, to adopt the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code and local amendments. (Suggested date and time: June 23, 2016 at 4:00 p.m., Austin City Hall, Council Chambers, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, Texas).

Amount and Source of Funding

Fiscal Note

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	May 23, 2013 – Council adopted the 2013 International Energy Conservation Code with local amendments.
For More Information:	Jose Roig, Development Services Department, (512) 974-9754; Kurt Stogdill, Austin Energy, (512) 322-6510.
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:	January 26, 2016 - Reviewed by the Mechanical, Plumbing and Solar Board. No action taken. January 27, 2016 - Reviewed by the Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals. No action taken. March 22, 2016 - Approved by the Resource Management Commission on a 9-0 vote, with direction to staff to add a sentence in the Energy Rating Index (ERI) stating that the ERI shall not consider on-site power production, with Commissioner Saum off the dais and Commissioner Vaughn absent. April 18, 2016 - Approved by the Electric Utility Commission on a vote of 10-1 with Commissioner Stout voting against.
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

On June 16, 2015, Governor Abbott signed House Bill 1736 into law, adopting a new energy code in the State of Texas. The law moves Texas’s energy code requirements for single family construction to the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). All local jurisdictions must comply with the new code by September 1, 2016. Texas law, in conjunction with state administrative action, also requires the 2015 IECC as the energy code for all other residential, commercial, and industrial construction. Municipalities are required to establish procedures for administration and enforcement of these codes and may adopt local amendments that do not result in less stringent energy efficiency requirements. This change to City Code Chapter 25-12, Article 12, adopts an updated Energy Code consistent with the state’s requirements.

The International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) provides reduced energy use in both residential and commercial

buildings. The proposed amendments are in line with City of Austin policy relating to the Zero Energy Capable Homes Initiative (Council Resolution No. 20071018-036) and the Austin Climate Protection Plan.

The 2015 IECC represents a modest change from 2012 version, for both commercial and residential buildings. Noteworthy changes include:

- Addition of an Energy Rating Index (ERI) compliance path for residential buildings
- Limited tradeoff between building envelope performance and mechanical system efficiency for residential buildings
- Retention of the current (2012) prescriptive requirements for existing residential buildings; i.e., repairs, replacements, renovations.
- Inclusion of ASHRAE 90.1-13 as an alternative energy code for commercial buildings with amendments necessary to align it with the IECC 2015 commercial building provisions.

Highlights of the draft ordinance are as follows:

Commercial Amendments – reflective roofing, air barrier requirements, HVAC shut-off for overhead doors, mechanical system commissioning, filtration of ventilation and return air, demand response, building energy modeling and water heater timers in Group R buildings.

Residential Amendments – covering 4-level group R buildings, R15 wall insulation, comprehensive testing (envelope & mechanical), greater lighting efficiency, limits on electric resistance water heating, solar heat gain coefficient (SHGC) adjustment for windows shaded by projections, limited trade-off between building envelope performance and mechanical system efficiency, and inclusion of an additional compliance path (ERI).